

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT



**Deanna
Alexander**

**National Park
Community
College,
Hot Springs**

Although she was a good student, Deanna Alexander never considered herself a "school person" and didn't graduate high school. Against great odds this vibrant, young, single mother has found the motivation and determination to succeed, and she shares her story.

"February 28, 2010, I experienced a near fatal tragedy. I was randomly gunned down not even 100 feet from my front door. That incident left me paralyzed from the waist down. Everything in my life is different now. From the way I dress to the way I eat. When my injury first happened, I wanted to give up and I didn't have a care in the world. As time went on, I began to realize that just because I am no longer able to do things the way I once was, doesn't mean that I can't do them at all. So what did I do to make myself a better candidate for a job, I got my GED, which only took me 13 hours of study. I am in the process of receiving my CRC (Career Readiness Certificate), and I have completed an Office Assistant course in Business Education. It has been a year since my injury and I must say that I have achieved more in the past year than I have in my 30 years of living. I have regained my confidence and I know that whenever I go for an interview, they will see past my condition and know that I will be a great asset to their company.

It's sad to say that it took something so tragic for me to realize the importance of my education, but it's better late than never at all. One thing I have learned for sure is that it is never too late."

AACAE/ALC Conference Held



The 2011 Arkansas Association of Adult and Continuing Education (AACAE) and Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. (ALC) Conference was held October 27-28, 2011, at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock. The conference theme "Building Literacy One Step at a Time: Education, Work, Career" emphasized the fact that adult learning is a progressive, lifelong process.

Conference participants engaged in workshops, networking, motivational presentations and other opportunities for professional development.

AACAE 2012 Officers

Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, President
Charles (Chuck) Carter, Vice President
Jennifer Black, Secretary
Debbie Shelton, Treasurer
Gary Udouj, Assistant Treasurer
Deb Carwell, Parliamentarian



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The Arkansas Department of Career Education funds the Adult Education Division. The Adult Education Division provides programs and services statewide.



TIMBERFEST 2011



Sheridan recently celebrated 28 years of Timberfest, and College of the Ouachitas' (COTO) Adult Education Sheridan was in on the celebration. The festive atmosphere included 80 vendors, and over 10,000 people who walked around the town square to participate in this small town tradition.

COTO Adult Education Sheridan was there to talk with folks about earning their GED® credential. Numerous people visited with staff members and shared stories of individuals they knew who attended the local program or who had earned their GED® diploma in Sheridan. Also, the staff had the pleasure of talking to those who would like to get their GED® diploma; and, of course the staff collected contact information on the potential students.

This past year COTO's Adult Education Sheridan program graduated 65 students. Several of these graduates have gone on to attend some form of higher education.

Members of the COTO Adult Education staff in Sheridan are: Laura Collins and Phyllis Dumond, teachers; Donna Bean and Libby Bennett, paraprofessionals; and Dr. Blake Robertson, Director.

AACAE/ALC Conference Held (Continued)

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. along with a partner organization, recognized several individuals and programs for outstanding achievements in the promotion of literacy. ALC provides structure and support to over 40 county-level literacy councils serving adults in over 60 Arkansas counties. These councils offer instructional tutoring to adults who want to learn to read, write or speak English better.

ALC Award Recipients

*Excellence in Education – Twin Lakes Literacy Council, Mountain Home
Outstanding Business Partner – Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock
Innovative Project Award – Ouachita-Calhoun Counties Literacy Council, Camden
Win Rockefeller Leadership Award – Mina Phebus – Ozark Literacy Council, Fayetteville*

Lawyers for Literacy Award Recipients

*Tutor of the Year – Paul Johnson, Ozark Literacy Council, Fayetteville
Student of the Year – Senada Whitehead, Ozark Foothills Literacy Project, Batesville*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY 7 LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

11 AM – 12:30 PM IN THE CAPITOL HILL BUILDING LOBBY. RSVP: 501-907-2490 OR 800-832-6242

FEBRUARY 13-19 "SAY GO COLLEGE" WEEK

VISIT SAYGOCOLLEGE.COM FOR INFORMATION.

PULASKI COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION WAGE™ PROGRAM HOSTS JOB FAIR

On November 17, 2011, Pulaski County Adult Education WAGE Program hosted their first Job Fair. Prior to the fair there was a brief WAGE Advisory Committee Meeting introducing the program to the new vendors and service providers in attendance.



More than 80 students and job seekers visited the job fair. Vendors included Wal-Mart, Crosby National Swage, Goodwill Industries, City of Jacksonville, First Arkansas Bank and Trust, American Heritage Insurance, Department of Workforce Services from North Little Rock, Little Rock and Jacksonville, ASAP Personnel Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation, Arkansas Construction Education Foundation (ACEF), and TRIO/EOC. A chef and students from Job Corps prepared refreshments for attendees.

